REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 4 are herein amended.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by **Suzuki** (U.S. Patent 6,213,652), and claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that Suzuki does not disclose a "print data storing unit" and a "spool file storing unit" as recited in claims 1 and 4. The print data storing unit and the spool file storing unit of claims 1 and 4 store print data for printing in a printer. Thus, print data is synonymous with document data in Suzuki.

The Office Action cites the spool of the job acceptance section 201 as the "print data storing unit," (Office Action, page 2, citing Suzuki, col. 41, lines 65-67), and the queue management section 214, which comprises printer queues 260 and 270, as the "spool file storing unit" (Office Action, page 2, citing Suzuki, col. 44, lines 37-40).

As was previously pointed out, Suzuki discloses that document data of an accepted print document is stored in the spool of the job acceptance section 201. (Col. 41, lines 65-67.) When data is received by the print processing device, the data is divided into attribute data 280a and document data 280b. (Col. 44, line 67 to col. 45, line 1.) The document data is stored in the spool of the job acceptance section 201 and the attribute data is stored in an object file 209. (Col. 45, lines 1-5.) The file path name of the spool of the document data is stored in the object file.

(Col. 45, lines 1-5.) When the job execution section 204 (the printer) is ready to print, it retrieves the document data directly from the spool of the job acceptance section as demonstrated by the line in Fig. 27 connecting job acceptance section 201 to job execution section 204. (Col. 42, lines 53-56; Fig. 27.) Since the document data goes directly from the spool of the job acceptance section to the job execution section, Suzuki may disclose a print data storing unit, but Suzuki does not disclose "a spool file storing unit storing said print data read out from said print data storing unit."

Moreover, Applicants note that printer queues 260 and 270, alleged by the Office Action to be "spool file storing units storing said print data read out from said print data storing unit" do not store document data. Printer queues store information about jobs and documents in object files. The printer queues store queue objects. Suzuki states:

> queue objects are stored in predetermined queues depending on the state of the job. In other words, a queue object of a corresponding job is stored in a queue. Practical documents are stored in memory (not shown) associated with queues.

(Col. 15, lines 62-66.) Suzuki further states that throughout its specification, queue objects are simply referred to as "documents." (Col. 15, lines 66-67; "[t]hroughout the following description, queue objects stored in queues are simply called documents.")

Queue objects are created by the request control section 211 when the job request section 201 receives a job request. (Col. 15, lines 14-23 and 36-44; *see* Figs. 1, 2 and 28.) Queue objects hold attribute information for each job and each document within a job. (Col. 15, lines 14-23 and 36-44; *see, e.g.*, Figs. 2, 6, 8 and 10.)

Attribute information is, *e.g.*, "Job ID," "Job Copy Count," "Copy Count," "Collate Flag," "Current Doc Num," "Job ID," "Doc Seq Num," "Request Count," "Complete Count" and "Complete." (Col. 15, lines 24-36 and 45-61; Figs. 2, 6, 8 and 10.)

When a job request is received, job blocks and document blocks are placed in printer queues 260 and 270. (Col. 44, lines 40-43.) Since the specification states that queue objects are stored in queues and that queue objects are referred to as documents, job blocks and document blocks are merely queue objects holding job and document attribute information. Document attribute information is not "print data" as recited in claims 1 and 4. Thus, printer queues 260 and 270 do not store print data. Therefore, Suzuki does not disclose a "spool file storing unit storing said print data read out from said print data storing unit" in addition to a "print data storing unit storing print data of an accepted print job."

The Office Action takes the position that printer queues 260 and 270 store "print data" as recited in claims 1 and 4. (Office Action, page 8.) In support of this position, the Office Action cites the definitions of a print queue and a print spooler from *Computer Dictionary*, Microsoft Press, Third Edition. These definitions provide general definitions of a print queue and a print spooler and are not inconsistent with the more specific definition for printer queue as described by Suzuki.

The dictionary definition for print queue is "a buffer for documents and images waiting to be printed." As stated above, Suzuki defines the printer queue as memory for *storing queue objects* for documents that are waiting to be printed. (Col. 15, lines 14-23, 36-44 and 62-66; *see,*

e.g., Figs. 2, 6, 8 and 10; *see also*, col. 7, lines 57-59; col. 8, lines 40-44.) Thus, instead of holding documents, Suzuki defines printer queues as storing information in queue objects for documents. Applicants note that if a reference must be modified or combined with another reference, then a rejection under § 102 for anticipation is not proper; and if a rejection is made under § 103 for obviousness, a statement of motivation to modify or combine is required.

The dictionary definition of print spooler is:

> computer software that intercepts a print job on its way to the printer and sends it to disk or memory instead, where the print job is held until the printer is ready for it.

In Suzuki, the spool of the job acceptance section 201 holds document data 280b until the printer fetches the document data of the print document. (Col. 45, lines 1-5; col. 42, lines 53-59.) Thus the spool of the job acceptance section 201 holds print data until the printer is ready for it, and therefore, is consistent with the dictionary definition of print spooler.

The Office Action takes the position that Suzuki does not disclose that the printer fetches document data "directly" from the job acceptance section, and that document data would have been intercepted by a print spooler and stored in a queue before the print data is sent to the printer. (Office Action, page 8.)

Applicants point out that Suzuki states:

> When the job execution section 204, which is a printer, **fetches document data of a print document from the spool of the job acceptance section 201 to print the document**, the object processing section 208 also reads document attribute.

(Col. 42, lines 53-56.) This statement does not use the word "directly" to state that the printer fetches data directly from the spool of the job acceptance section. However, Suzuki does not disclose that print data is intercepted by an additional print spooler and stored in a queue before the print data is sent to the printer as alleged by the Office Action. The only reasonable interpretation of the above statement of Suzuki is that the printer fetches data directly from the spool of the job acceptance section. (*See also*, Fig. 27, the line connecting job acceptance section 201 to the job execution section 204.)

The Office Action takes the position that Fig. 29 discloses storing document data in the printer queue 260, because blocks identifying DOC 1, DOC 2, *etc.*, are shown in the printer queue. (Office Action, pages 8-9.)

Applicants point out that document blocks are stored in the printer queue and that document blocks are not document data. As stated above, the printer queue stores queue objects. Queue objects hold attribute information. Thus, document blocks DOC 1 and DOC 2, in Fig. 29 represent queue objects for the documents holding attribute data, not print data. This is further supported in Suzuki, Figs. 30(a)-(c) and col. 44, line 66 to col. 45, line 5, where Suzuki states that *"document data item" 280b is stored in the spool of the job acceptance section.* Suzuki does not state that document data item 280b is stored in printer queue 260. Suzuki further states that attribute data item 280a is stored in object file 209, which is consistent with Suzuki's definition of queue objects. (Col. 45, lines 1-5.) Therefore, the Office Action incorrectly interprets document blocks to be document data.

The Office Action takes the position that the scheduling section 212 queues received document data from the client to a queue. (Office Action, page 9.)

As stated above, the request control section 211 creates queue objects when the job acceptance section receives a print request. (Col. 15, lines 14-23 and 36-44; *see* Figs. 1, 2 and 28.) The request control section 211 also issues a request for scheduling to the job scheduling section 212. (Col. 43, lines 13-15.) The job scheduling section 212 carries out the queuing of the job using the queue management section 214. (Col. 43, lines 24-35.) The queue management section queues documents by placing job blocks and documents blocks in printer queues 260 and 270. (Col. 37-43.) The job blocks and document blocks represent queue objects. (Col. 15, lines 14-23, 36-44 and 62-66; *see, e.g.*, Figs. 2, 6, 8 and 10; *see also*, col. 7, lines 57-59; col. 8, lines 40-44.) Thus, Suzuki discloses that the scheduling section queues jobs and documents by queuing objects in printer queues 260 and 270, and not by queuing document data.

The Office Action takes the position that since the job acceptance section performs a unifying process, the job acceptance section must inherently have storage for storing the print job.

Applicants point out that we do no dispute that the job acceptance section 201 has storage for storing the print job. The job acceptance section 201 has a spool for storing print data. (Col. 41, lines 65-67.) The Office Action cited the spool of the job acceptance section 201 as the "print data storing unit." Thus, the spool of the job acceptance section cannot be cited again for disclosing the "spool file storing unit."

The job control section 203 receives a print request from the job acceptance section 201 via the request control section 211, which is part of the job control elementary section 210. (Figs. 27 and 28.) The request control section 211 creates queue objects when the job acceptance section receives a print request. (Col. 15, lines 14-23 and 36-44; *see* Figs. 1, 2 and 28.) The request control section 211 also issues a request for scheduling to the job scheduling section 212. (Col. 43, lines 13-15.) In other words, as stated in Suzuki, "the job control section 203 receives a print processing job from the job acceptance section 201 and analyzes the contents of the job." (Col. 42, lines 10-13.) Thus, the content of the job in which the job control section analyzes is the attribute data. The job control section does not analyze the document data.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections based on Suzuki of claims 1-6 is hereby solicited.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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